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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. **2013- 879**

13 **SUSAN JOY COPELAND**
908 La Sombra Drive
San Marcos, CA 92078

A C C U S A T I O N

14 **Registered Nurse License No. 583215**

15 Respondent.

16
17 Complainant alleges:

18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., R.N. ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her
20 official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"),
21 Department of Consumer Affairs.

22 2. On or about July 10, 2001, the Board issued Registered Nurse License Number
23 583215 to Susan Joy Copeland ("Respondent"). The Registered Nurse License was active at all
24 times relevant herein and will expire on April 30, 2013 unless renewed.

25 **JURISDICTION**

26 3. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code (all section references are to the
27 Business and Professions Code unless otherwise noted) in pertinent part provides the Board may
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1 discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any
2 reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.

3 4. In pertinent part, Section 2764 provides the expiration of a license shall not deprive
4 the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to
5 render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under section 2811 subdivision (b) the
6 Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.

7 5. Section 118 subdivision (b) grants the Board jurisdiction over suspended, expired,
8 forfeited, cancelled, or surrendered licenses:

9 "The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license
10 issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by
11 order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written
12 consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed,
13 restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or
14 continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by
15 law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking
16 disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground."

14 STATUTES

15 6. In pertinent part, Section 2761 authorizes the Board to discipline licensees who have
16 been disciplined by another state:

17 "The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed
18 nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

19 (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the
20 following:

21 (4) Denial of licensure, revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other
22 disciplinary action against a health care professional license or certificate by another
23 state or territory of the United States, by any other government agency, or by another
24 California health care professional licensing board. A certified copy of the decision
25 or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that action."

24 COST RECOVERY

25 7. In pertinent part, Section 125.3 provides the Board may request the administrative
26 law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing
27 act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the
28 case or to recover those costs in a settlement.

1 **CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Disciplinary Action by the Utah Board of Nursing)**

3 8. Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Section 2761 subdivision (a)(4) on the
4 grounds of unprofessional conduct because the Utah Board of Nursing publically reprimanded her
5 license in April 2007.

6 9. On or about April 19, 2007, the Utah Board entered findings of fact, conclusions of
7 law, and made an order adopting a settlement agreement with Respondent to resolve the
8 disciplinary action entitled *In the Matter of the License of Susan Joy Copeland to Practice as a*
9 *Registered Nurse in the State of Utah*. In the settlement agreement Respondent agreed to accept a
10 public reprimand of her license and to take two nursing-related courses.

11 10. In the settlement agreement, the Utah Board found and Respondent admitted that
12 while working in a hospital in Moab, Utah, between January and October 2006 she failed to
13 document the administration of and wastage of injectable morphine sulfate to the majority of her
14 patients who required that medication. The Board found and Respondent admitted that this
15 constituted unprofessional conduct.

16 11. In the settlement agreement the Utah Board disciplined Respondent's license by
17 publically reprimanding it, fining her \$250, and ordering her to complete courses in professional
18 accountability and legal liability and in documentation by October 19, 2007.

19 12. Under Section 2761 subdivision (a)(4) the Utah Board's disciplinary action publically
20 reprimanding Respondent's license in 2007 is grounds for the California Board to take its own
21 disciplinary action.

22 **PRAYER**

23 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
24 and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

25 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 583215, issued to Susan
26 Joy Copeland;

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1 2. Ordering Susan Joy Copeland to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable
2 costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions
3 Code Section 125.3; and

4 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

5
6 DATED: April 8, 2013

Louise R. Bailey
LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.Ed., R.N.
Executive Officer
Board of Registered Nursing
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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